(b) and (c) As per the instructions issued by the Department of Personnel and Training of the Government of India on Reservations and Concessions to SCs and STs, where an educational qualification has been prescribed in the Recruitment Rules, all candidates including SC and ST candidates should satisfy the said qualification. Similarly, when a minimum number of marks or a minimum grade is also prescribed as part of the educational qualification, the minimum marks/grade so prescribed shall also uniformly apply to all candidates including SC and ST candidates.

Appointment of consultants by UGC

2780. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission appointed a number of consultants in the last year;

(b) the details of such consultants;

(c) to what extent universities are being by-passed by UGC through informal, ad-hoc, improvised methods and decisions;

(d) the steps proposed to streamline the UGC to make it an institution of excellence;

(e) whether Government have been monitoring the neglect of universities and their administrations; and

(f) the steps proposed to rectify these tendencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), two consultants have been appointed in UGC for Legal & Finance. Legal consultant has been appointed for the purpose of dealing with court cases concerning UGC and the other consultant has been appointed to deal with the matters concerning finance.

(c) to (f) As per the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the Universities are the active participants in the decision making process of the UGC. The policy decisions of the Commission and guidelines on various subjects are formulated in consultation with the academicians drawn from the university system who

are appointed as members on different committees of the Commission. Out of 12 Members of the Commission, 8 are from among the University system and 4 are *ex-officio* Members.

Expansion of secondary education

†2781. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Central scheme is under consideration for expansion of secondary education;

(b) if so, the outline of the scheme; and

(c) if not, the manner in which children who have received primary education through implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan will be able to get facility of secondary education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) A concept note for implementing a scheme on universalisation of access to and improvement of quality of secondary education has been prepared. The objective is to provide access to secondary schools within a reasonable distance of habitations and to improve the quality of education at the secondary stage.

Vacant posts for SCs , STs and OBCs in Central Universities

2782. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of SCs, STs and OBCs teaching posts lying vacant under reserved category in the various Central Universities and its subordinate colleges of the country;

(b) the specific reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the above teaching posts of the above mentioned categories will be filled up in all colleges affiliated to the Central Universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Occurrence of vacancies and filling up of vacant teaching posts in Central Universities

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.